

violence. And in Iraq, personnel from Australia and Japan and South Korea are helping Iraq's democratically elected Government rebuild from the rubble of tyranny. We're working hard to stop Al Qaida from turning that country into a safe haven.

You may have heard, on my way down here I stopped in Iraq—stopped in Anbar Province. Anbar was an Al Qaida stronghold. Their leaders of Al Qaida had announced that they were going to establish a safe haven from which to launch further attacks on my nation—for starters. It was a part of Iraq that was dangerous, and the truth of the matter is, the a lot of the experts in my country had said was lost to Al Qaida.

I went there because Al Qaida has lost Anbar. The opposite happened. Anbar is a Sunni Province that once had people joining Al Qaida; they're now turning against Al Qaida. Why? Because people don't want to follow a dark vision. People want to live in hope. Moms around the world share the same deep desire, and that is for their children to grow up in peace and in hopeful societies.

And so the sheikhs there and the local folks turned against Al Qaida. And they asked for help, and we're giving it to them. And we're driving Al Qaida out of their strongholds. And we're giving people a chance to live in peace. And I was proud to go there.

By the way, the same security situation in Anbar is being replicated throughout parts of the country. By providing security we're creating conditions that allow people to reconcile. It's hard for people to come together after years of tyranny, particularly since the brutal dictator did all he could to divide society in order to stay in power. Those of us who live in the comfort of free societies—it's hard to imagine what it is like to recover—psychologically recover from life under a thug like Saddam Hussein. But that's what's happening. And they need time to do so. And they need the security necessary to do so.

We're giving this young democracy the chance. It's in our interest to do so because, as John Howard accurately noted when he went to thank the Australian troops there last year—here's what he said, he said, "If we leave before the job is done—if we leave Iraq

before the job is done, it would represent a devastating blow to the hopes of a stable future for the Middle East. It would embolden the Iranians. They would unsettle and destabilize the more moderate elements amongst the Arab states in the region, and it would represent a monumental victory for the cause of international terrorism." The Prime Minister says: "What Iraq and her people now need is time, not a timetable. They seek our patience, not political posturing. They require resolve, not our retreat."

We're going to succeed in Iraq. If given a chance, liberty will succeed every time and liberty will help yield the peace we need.

This is the calling of our time, by the way. This is what leaders have been called to do, is to be able to see over the horizon and envision a peaceful future. This is hard work we're doing, but it's the kind of work we've done before. We've done this kind of work in East Asia before. East Asia used to be a region of turmoil and danger, and today, it's a region of peace and hope and opportunity. With resolve and strength of conviction, the same thing will happen in the Middle East. And when they look back at this period, Mr. Prime Minister, they'll say: Job well done.

I'm honored to be here on the soil of an ally like Australia. We share values; we share vision; and we share resolve to not only protect our people but to spread the peace. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:05 a.m. at the Sydney Opera House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister John Howard of Australia; Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, senior Al Qaida leader responsible for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan, on March 1, 2003; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and Zarkasih (also known as Mbah), acting emir, and Abu Dujana, military leader, Jemaah Islamiya terrorist organization, both captured on the island of Jakarta, Indonesia, on June 9.

Remarks at a Luncheon With Southeast Asian Leaders in Sydney September 7, 2007

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for inviting me to join the ASEAN group. ASEAN represents our

fourth largest trading partner. In other words, this is a group of friends that represent more than just social acquaintances; you represent commerce and trade and prosperity. And I want to thank you very much for giving me a chance to come and talk to you about our common interests and common goals.

I invited the ASEAN leaders to Texas at their convenience. I'm looking forward to hosting you down there. I'm looking forward to continuing our constructive conversation on—whether it be democracy or fighting terror or expanding trade or avian flu or climate change.

I also am pleased to announce that we'll be naming an Ambassador to ASEAN, so that we can make sure that the ties we've established over the past years remain firmly entrenched.

So I appreciate your hospitality. It's good to be amongst friends. I enjoyed our candid conversation, and I thank you for your leadership in this important part of the world.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore. Thank you. Thank you very much.

President Bush. You bet. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:49 p.m. at the InterContinental Sydney.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea in Sydney

September 7, 2007

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for your time. As usual, we had a very friendly and frank discussion about important matters. We discussed our bilateral relations, which are very strong. And we thank you for your contributions to helping young democracies such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

But we spent a lot of time talking about the six-party talks and the progress that is being made in the six-party talks. I understand you're having a summit with the leader of North Korea, and I appreciate the fact that you will urge the North Korean leader to continue to adhere to the agreement that he made with us.

And in our discussions, I reaffirmed our Government's position that when the North Korean leader fully discloses and gets rid of his nuclear weapons programs, that we can achieve a new security arrangement in the Korean Peninsula, that we can have the peace that we all long for. You and I discussed the northeast peace and security agreement—arrangement, which we support.

And so I'm optimistic. There's still more work to be done. But nevertheless, Mr. President, when we have worked together, we have shown that it's possible to achieve the peace on the Korean Peninsula that the people long for.

So thank you, sir.

President Roh. As President Bush has stated, we had a very constructive discussion on six-party talks and the North Korean nuclear issue as well as other bilateral issues between our two countries.

Before we discussed these issues, I reaffirmed my support for President Bush and his policies and efforts in Iraq to bring peace. I also thanked the President for his efforts in the Visa Waiver Program—for his constructive position on this issue.

We both agreed on the positive outlook for the six-party talks. We believe that this progress is very meaningful. And I also thanked President Bush for his resolve to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asian region, for making a strategic decision to bring peace to the region through dialog.

As is outlined in the 2005 September 19th joint statement, we have a plan for the peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, and President Bush also reaffirmed in November of last year in Vietnam of his willingness and his resolve to end the Korean war officially, once and for all. Today we revisited this issue. President Bush reaffirmed his determination to replace the current status in the Korean Peninsula with a permanent peace regime, and he stressed that he would be proceeding with this move after the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved.

We also share the view that should there be more progress in the six-party process, this will be followed by talks to initiate a